Problems of sugarcane and cotton farmers

2046. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the plans Government have to solve the problems of sugarcane and cotton farmers;

(b) whether Government have any new plan to change the minimum support price;

(c) whether Government have any new scheme to give soft loans to the sugarcane and cotton farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in the country for increasing the production and productivity of sugarcane. The States/Union Territory have been given flexibility within given parameters, to restructure scheme/ its components and include them in their work plans based on local needs. Under the scheme assistance is provided for the trasfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, seed production enhancement, pest control measures, etc. Besides, Front Line Demonstrations are also organized through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers fields to popularize improved sugarcane cultivation technology amongst the farmers.

In order to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton in the country, a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) is under implementation in 13 States. The TMC has 4 Mini Missions. Mini Mission-I deals with research and development of improved cotton production and protection technologies and is being implemented by the ICAR. Mini Mission-II of TMC is being implemented by Department

of Agriculture and Cooperation in which assistance is provided for supply of critical inputs like certified seeds, sprayers, water saving devices like sprinkler and drip irrigation system, bio-agents, pheromone traps etc. Mini Mission-III focuses on the development of marketing infrastructure activities like construction of market yards, auction centers, grading facilities, laboratories for testing of cotton quality etc. The upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton is undertaken under Mini Mission-IV. Mini Mission-III and IV are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.

(b) An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh was set up by Central Government to examine the methodological issues in fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) and this Committee has recently submitted its report to the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposals from States for agricultural schemes

2047. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the State Governments that have forwarded proposals to the Central Government relating to agriculture under various schemes;

(b) the details of proposals cleared/approved by the Central Government, State-wise;

(c) the details of projects which have not been cleared, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The names of the State Governments which have forwarded the Work Plans/Proposals under the schemes of (i) Macro Management on Agriculture (MMA) scheme; (ii) Integrated